

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the present amendments and the following remarks. By this amendment, independent claims 1, 16, 23 and 36 are amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2, 17, 32 and 43, respectively, claims 2, 17, 32 and 43 are canceled, and the dependencies of claims 3, 4, 14, 18, 19, 33, 34, 44 and 45 are updated to reflect the addition of the limitations of the claims from which they depend to the independent claims. As a result, upon entry of this amendment claims 1, 3-16, 18-31, 33-42 and 44-46 are pending in this case, with claims 1, 16, 23 and 36 being independent claims. No claims are added by this amendment, it is believed that no additional fees are due for the consideration of this paper. However, if additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 13-2855.

As indicated, 1, 16, 23 and 36 are amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2, 17, 32 and 43, respectively. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are supported by the specification as originally filed on October 31, 2003, and that no new matter or new issues are added by the amendments. Because previous dependent claims 2, 17, 32 and 43 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit same. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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